

# జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

## VOICE

Look at the following sentences:

- India defeated Bangladesh in the final of 2016 Asia Cup.
- Bangladesh was defeated by India in the final of 2016 Asia Cup.

You may observe that both the sentences mean the same thing. But in sentence (a), the Subject (India) is the doer of the action (defeated). In sentence (b), the Subject (Bangladesh) is the sufferer or receiver of the action (was defeated).

- ★ A verb is said to be in the Active Voice when the person or thing denoted by the subject acts or is active. The Active Voice is used when the doer of the action is important.

*Chetan Bhagat wrote Half Girlfriend.*

- ★ A verb is said to be in the Passive Voice when the person or thing denoted by the subject does not act, but suffers (or receives) the action done by something or by someone. The Passive Voice is used when doer of the action is unimportant, unknown or understood from the context.

*Shikhar Dhawan was declared man of the match.* (We just do not care who declared it.)

*The door has been broken* (We don't know who the doer of the action is.)

*The thief was arrested* (It is quite understandable that police alone can arrest a thief.)

- ★ The sentences having intransitive verbs cannot be changed into the Passive Voice because the action does not pass over to the object here.

*Birds fly in the sky.*

*The boy ran down the street.*

**The changes that take place when 'Active Voice' is converted into 'Passive Voice'**

- The object of the active verb is made the subject of the passive verb.
- The subject of the active verb becomes the 'agent' of the passive verb (If the agent is unknown, unimportant or obvious, it can be omitted).
- Appropriate 'be form' is used and the verb is always in V<sub>3</sub> form i.e., the past participle (See the table below).
- When the agent is mentioned in the Passive Voice it is generally preceded by the preposition 'by' (Sometimes 'in, with, at, to, etc' may also be used).
- Pronouns in the Subjective Case (I, we, he, she, they, who) are changed into the Objective Case (me, us, him, her, them, whom).

**Active Voice:** Subject + Active Verb + Object

**Passive**      Subject + Passive      + 'by' + Agent

**Voice:**

Verb

(be form + V<sub>3</sub>)

CHANGE OF VOICE – SOME OTHER CASES

**WH Questions:**

**Active:** What are you doing now?

**Passive:** What is being done by you now?

**Yes / No Questions:**

**Active:** Did they like the movie?

**Passive:** Was the movie liked by them?

**An imperative sentence with an object:**

**Active:** Close the window.

**Passive:** Let the window be closed.

**An imperative sentence without an object:**

**Active:** Get out.

**Passive:** You are ordered to get out.

**Active:** Move a side, please.

**Passive:** You are requested to move a side.

**Active:** Work hard.

**Passive:** You are advised to work hard.

**Verbs with two objects:**

Some verbs have two objects after them; direct and indirect.

**Active:** He presented *me* (indirect object) *a nice gift* (direct object).

**So it is possible to make two passive sentences:**

**Passive:** I was presented a nice gift by him.

A nice gift was presented to me by him.

**A sentence with an Object Complement:**

**Active:** They elected him *president*.

**Passive:** He was elected *president*.

**Active:** You have made the house *beautiful*.

**Passive:** The house has been made *beautiful*

**With Certain Verbs:**

**Active:** His decision surprised them.

**Passive:** They were surprised at his decision.

**Active:** I know the result.

**Passive:** The result is known to me.

**Active:** His behaviour pleases us.

**Passive:** We are pleased with his behaviour.

**Active:** Water fills the tank.

**Passive:** The tank is filled with water.

**Active:** The box contains many chocolates.

**Passive:** Many chocolates are contained in the box.

**With Certain Phrasal Verbs:**

**Active:** We should not laugh at the poor.

**Passive:** The poor should not be laughed at.

**Active:** Listen to good words.

**Passive:** Good words must be listened to.

**Active:** The lorry knocked down the old man

**Passive:** The old man was knocked down by the lorry.

**Impersonal Passive:**

When the subject of the active voice is obvious, we use the impersonal passive construction with 'It' as the subject of the passive verb.

**Active:** People believe that he is a genius.

**Passive:** It is believed that he is a genius (or) He is believed to be a genius.

**Headlines in Newspapers:**

The passive voice is often used in headlines of a newspaper article. As headlines must be as short as possible, punctuation, articles, auxiliary verbs and by-phrases of agents are omitted.

**Sachin awarded Bharat Ratna**

**Women's Day celebrated**

PASSIVE VERB FORMS

Tense	Active Verb Form	Example	Passive Verb Form	Example
1. Simple Present	V <sub>1</sub> (or) V <sub>1</sub> + s/es /ies	He writes a novel	is/ am/ are + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel is written by him
2. Present Continuous	is/am/are V <sub>1</sub> + ing'	He is writing a novel	is/ am/ are being + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel is being written by him
3. Present Perfect	have/has + V <sub>3</sub>	He has written a novel	has/ have been + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel has been written by him
4. Present Perfect Continuous	have/ has been + 'V <sub>1</sub> + ing'	He has been writing a novel	No Passive Form	No Passive Form
5. Simple Past	V <sub>2</sub>	He wrote a novel	was/were + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel was written by him
6. Past Continuous	was/were + 'V <sub>1</sub> + ing'	He was writing a novel	was/were being + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel was being written by him
7. Past Perfect	had + V <sub>3</sub>	He had written a novel	had been + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel had been written by him
8. Past Perfect Continuous	had been + 'V <sub>1</sub> + ing'	He had been writing a novel	No Passive Form	No Passive Form
9. Simple Future	will/shall + V <sub>1</sub>	He will write a novel	will/shall be + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel will be written by him
10. Future Continuous	will/shall be + 'V <sub>1</sub> + ing'	He will be writing a novel	No Passive Form	No Passive Form
11. Future Perfect	will/shall have + V <sub>3</sub>	He will have written a novel	will/shall have been + V <sub>3</sub>	A novel will have been written by him
12. Future Perfect Continuous	will/shall have been + 'V <sub>1</sub> + ing'	He will have been writing a novel	No Passive Form	No Passive Form

PRACTICE TEST

Choose the correct passive form of the given sentence

1. Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.
  - 1) The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize had been shared by Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai.
  - 2) The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize shared by Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai.
  - 3) The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize was shared by Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai.
  - 4) The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize was being shared between Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai.
2. I listen to Devi Sri Prasad's songs.
  - 1) Devi Sri Prasad's songs are listened by me.
  - 2) Devi Sri Prasad's songs are being listened by me.
  - 3) Devi Sri Prasad is listened to my songs.
  - 4) Devi Sri Prasad's songs are listened to by me.
3. Prof. Somalatha teaches us Indian English Literature.
  - I. We are being taught by Prof. Somalatha Indian English Literature
  - II. We are taught Indian English Literature by Prof. Somalatha
  - III. Indian English Literature is taught to us by Prof. Somalatha
  - 1) I and II
  - 2) II and III
  - 3) I and III
  - 4) All of the above
4. We know him.
  - 1) He is known by us.
  - 2) He is known to us.
  - 3) He is being known to us.
  - 4) He has known by us.
5. Post the card at once.
  - 1) You were at once ordered to post the card.
  - 2) Let the card be posted at once.
  - 3) The card at once had to be posted by you.
  - 4) The card must have been posted at once.
6. Shut the window, please.
  - 1) Let the door be shut.
  - 2) You are pleased to shut the door.
  - 3) You are requested to shut the door.
  - 4) You are requested to please shut the door.
7. Why does she criticise me always?
  - 1) Why am I being criticised by her always?
  - 2) Why I am criticised by her always?
  - 3) Why is she criticised by me always?
  - 4) Why am I criticised by her always?

8. Did he write poems?

- 1) Are poems written by him?
- 2) Was he written poems?
- 3) Were poems written by him?
- 4) Did poems written by him?

8. People generally believe daughters are more caring than sons.

- 1) Daughters are more caring than sons is generally believed by people.
- 2) That daughters are more caring than sons is to be believed generally by people.
- 3) It is generally believed that daughters are more caring than sons.
- 4) It is believed by general people that daughters are more caring than sons.

**ANSWERS**

1-3; 2-4; 3-2; 4-2; 5-2; 6-3; 7-4; 8-3; 9-3.

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